financial support given for the Haj yatris for the last four years, year-wise, alongwith the provision of funds made available for the current year and the estimated Haj yatra participants;

(b) what special arrangements have been made during the current year for extending the facilities to the Haj yatris;

(c) whether Government have received any proposal seeking financial assistance by the religious organisations of Hindus or other religious communities for financial support and if so, the policy of Government in this regard; and

(d) whether Government are considering subsidiary transport arrangements for special religious functions and festivals of other religious communities and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The number of Haj pilgrims from India visiting Saudi Arabia under arrangements made by the Central Haj Committee (CHC), along with the expenditure incurred on their travel from Government account, for the last four years are as follows:

Year	Number of Pilgrims	Expenditure incurred from Government account (in Rs. Crores)
Haj 1991	24,318	10.50
Haj 1992	24,217	14.43
Haj 1993	25,205	25.59
Haj 1994	25,685	24.43

For Haj-1995, the Haj quota for pilgrims going under arrangements of CHC has been fixed at 31,000.

The budget provision of funds for expenditure to be incurred from Government account for 1995-96 is Rs. 11 crores to be borne by Department of Civil Aviation.

(b) Government have decided to discontinue ship sailings with effect from Haj-1995 and consequently all pilgrims will not travel by air. For Haj-1995, wide-bodies aircraft have been chartered for transporting pilgrims to and from Saudi Arabia. Accommodation and transportation arrangements have been tied up in Saudi Arabia in advance of the arrival of the haj pilgrims. The medical and administrative teams which are sent to Saudi Arabia for assisting the pilgrims have been considerably augmented as also the number of Khuddamul Hujaj or Haj volunteers. The number of branch dispensaries operating in Makkah during Haj has been increased to 9 from 3 last year and the stock of medicines for the use of the pilgrims has also been significantly augmented.

(c) and (d) Government does not provide direct financial assistance to Indian pilgrims proceeding for pilgrimage to foreign countries. However, in some cases, efforts are made to facilitate their pilgrimage through administrative measures and some costs in this regard are absorbed by Government.

ICJ Report on Status of Kashmir

6200. SHRI V NARAYANASAMY:
SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether on page 9 of the report of International Commission of Jurists, Jammu and Kashmir has been shown as a separate entity with undefined status of boundaries, and the area illegally taken by Pakistan has been shown as a part of China; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government and steps taken to correct this position?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The International Commission of Jurists in

their report have shown Jammu and Kashmir as a separate entity with undefined status of boundaries, and the area illegally seized by Pakistan has been shown as a part of China. The mistake has been pointed out in India's comments, which have been published along with the report of International Commission of Jurists.

Conveying India's Stand on NPT to EU Representatives

6201. SHRI SATCHIDANANDA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government have reiterated India's stand on NPT aimed at nuclear weapon free world to the visiting EU representatives in the context of Pakistan Prime Minister's admission that Pakistan was setting up a nuclear reactor capable of producing plutonium for use in nuclear weapons;

(b) if so, in what precise terms; and

(c) what was the EU's and American reaction and response thereon?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) The Indo-EU Troika Ministerial level talks were held in Paris on 6 April 1995. We conveyed our principled and consistent position on the NPT and emphasised that global elimination of nuclear weapons was the means of achieving genuine non-proliferation. The EU Troika informed us of their support for an indefinite and unconditional extension of the NPT and welcomed the bilateral dialogue with certain EU countries on disarmament issues.

Activities of ICCR Abroad

6202. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have made an assessment of the activities of the Indian Council of Cultural Relations during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) if so, the main features of the assessment made thereon; and

(c) what directives have been issued, if any, in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Sir. The activities of the ICCR are subject to ongoing assessment by the statutory bodies which govern ICCR, namely, the Fiance Committee, the Governing Body and the General Assembly. The activities of the Council have also been assessed by the Standing Committee of Parliament for the Ministry of External Affairs. The Ministry of External Affairs, which is the Ministry which provides ICCR with its budget, also assesses the working of the Council.

(b) The main features of the assessment made by the statutory bodies, and by Parliament and MEA are;

(i) The importance of the ICCR's activities in the realm of cultural diplomacy was endorsed and the need to expand and intensify these activities, with a higher budget underlined.

(ii) Greater involvement by our Missions aborad in cultural activities by designating specific officers as cultural officers.

(iii) Effective use to be made of our cultural centres abroad.

(iv) Continuing attention towards streamlining of the scholarships handled by ICCR for international students, as well as their welfare.

(v) Maximising the impact of our cultural troupes that are sent abroad by developing tours taking them to a number of countries.

(c) (i) The budget of the ICCR has been enhanced by Rs. 6 crores for the year 1994-95 from Rs. 15 crores to Rs. 21 crores.